

# Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

Service of Worship • First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 • 10:55 AM

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## TOWER BELLS

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

Rev. Heather Rodrigues

### WELCOME STATEMENT

Isaiah Eagle

As our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to love and accept every person, Duke Memorial United Methodist Church welcomes into our life together those of every age, race, ethnic background, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, family or socioeconomic status, educational background, and physical or mental ability. In our commitment to the reconciliation of all persons as beloved children of God, we celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all. We invite you to join us in our faith journey toward discipleship in Christ with mutual respect, understanding, and love.

### PRELUDE

Sanctuary Choir

Let All Mortal Flesh, O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. David Stuntz

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Claire, Ella, and Angela Ritter

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.**

Yes, let us begin with hope...

Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

**May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.**

May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

### RESPONSE SONG

Sanctuary Choir

WS (green) 3049 | Wait for the Lord

WAIT FOR THE LORD

### \*OPENING HYMN

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful (see insert)

EL SENYOR

*\* Please rise as you are comfortable*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jalen Garza, Pastoral Intern

**Affirming God,**

**Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

— *Sanctified Art*

*silence for personal confession*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

*Greet one another with signs of reconciliation and love.*

The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Jessie Larkins, Children's Sunday School Teacher

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Alison Eagle

**Affirming God,**

**Create space in us to not only hear these words, but to believe the good news tucked between them. We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now.**

**With hope and curiosity, we dare to begin again.**

**Amen.**

\*GOSPEL LESSON | LUKE 1:26-38 NRSVUE

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Glory to God. Amen.**

SERMON

Rev. Heather Rodrigues

RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jalen Garza, Pastoral Intern

Our Soul is Waiting (see insert)

LE SEIGNEUR

**Our Soul is waiting for God. Our hearts find joy in the Lord.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jalen Garza, Pastoral Intern

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Heather Rodrigues  
Jalen Garza, Pastoral Intern

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

*Give online at [dukememorial.org/give](http://dukememorial.org/give) or in the designated offering boxes.*

\*OFFERTORY

Distant Land

Sanctuary Choir  
John Rutter

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jalen Garza, Pastoral Intern

SENDING FORTH

\*CLOSING HYMN

UMH (red) 206 | I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

*For verse 2, we invite you to sing:*

**"I want to live the brightness of God. I want to live like Jesus."**

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Heather Rodrigues

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

What Child is This?

David Stuntz, piano  
GREENSLEEVES  
arr. David Stuntz



## Want to know what's happening at Duke Memorial?

Sign up for the Weekly enews using the QR code!

**Live Stream** This worship service is being live streamed.

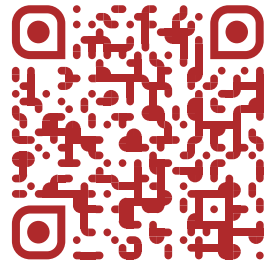
**Fidget baskets** are located on either side of the altar rail and in the narthex. These are offered for children and adults who learn best when their hands or bodies are moving or who can listen more attentively when their other senses are engaged. Feel free to use a fidget or two at any point during worship and then return them to the basket at the end of service. Additionally, there is **“Pray Ground”** space in front of the pews on the right side of the sanctuary. This is space in the sanctuary for our worshippers of all ages and stages. Feel free to let your child play in this space as they participate in worship.

**Love what God is doing in and through Duke Memorial?** Consider investing in our church by making an annual financial commitment.

*Give online at [dukememorial.org/give](http://dukememorial.org/give) or in the designated offering boxes.*

**New? Tell Us More** | We value building relationships across lines of difference, shared hobbies, passions, talents, and seasons of life. We hope to connect with you and one another inside and outside the church building. We encourage you to take time to fill out the connect card, explore our Spiritual Formation groups, ministries for children and youth, and our ministries designed to connect the church to the world through service.

*scan code or visit [dukememorial.org/here](http://dukememorial.org/here)*



**Captions and Accessibility:** Our left screen is dedicated to live captions to make our service accessible to everyone. If you have any access needs please contact [office@dukememorial.org](mailto:office@dukememorial.org)

Captions can also be accessed on your mobile device in English, French, and Spanish by scanning the QR codes below.



English



Scannez le code QR avec votre téléphone portable pour accéder aux sous titres français.



Escanea el código QR para acceder a los subtítulos en español.

We are grateful to the Global Ministries of the UMC and the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries for providing grant funding for our captions through the end of 2024.

